

**COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA ITEM TRANSMITTAL**

(1) DEPARTMENT Administrative Office	(2) MEETING DATE 8/12/2014	(3) CONTACT/PHONE Lisa Howe 781-5011	
(4) SUBJECT Thirty-day update on current drought conditions and related management actions for Board's review of the continuing need for the March 11, 2014 proclamation of local emergency pursuant to Government Code section 8630. All Districts.			
(5) RECOMMENDED ACTION It is recommended that the Board receive the thirty-day update on current drought conditions and related management actions establishing the need to continue the proclamation of local emergency due to drought conditions in San Luis Obispo County.			
(6) FUNDING SOURCE(S) N/A	(7) CURRENT YEAR FINANCIAL IMPACT \$0.00	(8) ANNUAL FINANCIAL IMPACT \$0.00	(9) BUDGETED? Yes
(10) AGENDA PLACEMENT { } Consent { } Presentation { } Hearing (Time Est. ____) { X } Board Business (Time Est. <u>90 Minutes</u>)			
(11) EXECUTED DOCUMENTS { } Resolutions { } Contracts { } Ordinances { X } N/A			
(12) OUTLINE AGREEMENT REQUISITION NUMBER (OAR) N/A		(13) BUDGET ADJUSTMENT REQUIRED? BAR ID Number: { } 4/5 Vote Required { X } N/A	
(14) LOCATION MAP N/A	(15) BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT? No	(16) AGENDA ITEM HISTORY { } N/A Date: <u>3/11/2014, 4/8/2014, 5/6/2014, 6/3/2014, 6/17/2014, 7/15/2014</u>	
(17) ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE REVIEW			
(18) SUPERVISOR DISTRICT(S) All Districts.			

County of San Luis Obispo



TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Administrative Office / Lisa Howe
781-5011

DATE: 8/12/2014

SUBJECT: Thirty-day update on current drought conditions and related management actions for Board's review of the continuing need for the March 11, 2014 proclamation of local emergency pursuant to Government Code section 8630. All Districts.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board receive the thirty-day update on current drought conditions and related management actions establishing the need to continue the proclamation of local emergency due to drought conditions in San Luis Obispo County.

DISCUSSION

Background

On March 11, 2014, the Board adopted a resolution proclaiming a local emergency due to drought conditions in San Luis Obispo County. Section 8630 of the California Government Code and County Code Chapter 2.80.070 (2) require that the Board of Supervisors review the need for continuing the local emergency at least every 30 days until such emergency is terminated. The Board also directed staff to return every 30 days to provide an update on the status of actions by the Drought Task Force, including a report on the analysis regarding local water conditions, local responses, conservation and outreach projects, and the State Water Project.

The last drought update was on July 15, 2014. This is the sixth update since the proclamation of a local emergency on March 11, 2014.

The Drought Task Force continues to meet to coordinate drought monitoring, impact assessments, responses to emergency health and human safety, and public communication and outreach. The task force prepared the Monthly Drought Update (Attachment 1) to inform the Board on current drought conditions and related management actions. Current drought conditions confirm the need to continue the proclamation of local emergency.

Current Conditions

The latest U.S. Drought Monitor report released July 31, 2014 indicates San Luis Obispo County remains at the D4 – Exceptional Drought intensity rating (Attachment 2). All of California is at a level D-2 Severe Drought or worse. Precipitation levels throughout the county remain at approximately 34% of average annual totals. Local reservoir levels remain significantly lower than the average percentage capacity for this time of year including: Nacimiento 19% (70,505 acre feet); Lopez 50% (24,521 acre feet); Salinas 29% (6,882 acre feet); and Whale Rock 50% (19,575 acre feet) of capacity (Attachment 3).

Statewide precipitation, snowpack and reservoir levels remain very low. Monsoonal moisture has been present off and on in recent weeks although thus far only a few sprinkles have been produced. Precipitation is expected to remain below average and San Luis Obispo remains among the worst County in this category in the western U.S. It would take an exceptionally wet winter to erase the effects of the long term drought. A near normal amount of precipitation will help recover in the short term, but it would take several such years to recharge reservoirs in the state's water supply system.

Impacts

As drought impacts continue to evolve affecting different parts of the county in varying degrees. Agricultural conditions continue to deteriorate due to lack of moisture. Water availability or quality has changed in the past 60 days. Quality issues of final products associated with lack of adequate irrigation water and increased salinity in the rootzone are developing. Harvests are occurring earlier than normal because of the warm weather conditions and some growers are waiting to stump trees until after fruit is harvested. Another dry year would be catastrophic for some in these industries as additional ground would have to be idled potentially leading to unemployment issues.

Due to drought conditions, above normal large fire potential will continue across the state into summer. Forecasts indicated that the County of San Luis Obispo will have an above normal fire potential from July to October. In order to reduce potential ignitions CAL FIRE San Luis Obispo continues to suspend all burning permits and open fires within the State Responsibility Areas and within the Local Responsibility Area under contract with CAL FIRE.

Negative economic impacts continue to mount due to drought conditions. In addition to economic impacts to agricultural producers, drought-related job losses are continuing to increase across the state. The State's Labor & Workforce Development Agency requested that all local workforce boards provide real time information on the workforce impacts of the drought. To date, there have been no reported business closures or reduction in workforce to report from the current network of individuals in San Luis Obispo County to the Social Services Office. However, some growers responding to the Agricultural Producer Survey indicated that they have had to lay off employees and continued drought could potentially result in growers going out of business. The county along with the Department of Social Services continues to explore options for collecting drought impact data and increasing survey response numbers.

Conservation Efforts

County Facilities

General Services Agency continues to lead water conservation efforts at county facilities. To date, Facility Services has retrofitted 29 buildings with low-flow fixtures, saving an estimated 2,500 gallons per week. In addition, water efficiency measures for County facilities, parks, and golf were reviewed through PG&E's Sustainable Turnkey Solutions program. The report is currently under review by staff.

State Water Board: Mandatory Water Conservation

On July 29, 2014, an emergency regulation to increase conservation practices for all Californians went into effect. The new conservation regulation targets outdoor urban water use. With this regulation, all Californians are expected to stop: washing down driveways and sidewalks; watering of outdoor landscapes that cause excess runoff; using a hose to wash a motor vehicle, unless the hose is fitted with a shut-off nozzle, and using potable water in a fountain or decorative water feature, unless the water is recirculated.

Emergency Actions

Integrated Regional Water Management Grant Application

As stated in the May 6 Drought Update, Senate Bill 104 appropriated \$200 million of existing Proposition 84 Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) grants to be awarded by the Department of Water Resources in an expedited drought relief funding round. Five projects were recommended by the Regional Water Management Group for inclusion in the IRWM grant application and subsequently endorsed by the Water Resources Advisory Committee.

Cambria Community Services District (CSD)

Cambria Community Services District (CSD) notified County OES that a monitoring well had dropped below the three foot level. Due to permitting issues, once the well drops below the three foot level the CSD is required to stop using a well downstream that is currently being used for community water supply. The CSD submitted a petition to the State Water Resources Control Board requesting a waiver to be allowed to drop the monitoring well level to two feet. County OES contacted Cal OES requesting assistance with getting the waiver request approved as soon as possible. County OES sent a request to Cal OES, which was sent up to Cal OES headquarters. Cal OES in turn worked with two State agencies to help with expediting the request.

As noted when the proclamation was made, the proclamation continues to provide authority for unforeseen needed actions. As also noted, proclamation provides a statement to State and Federal agencies of the seriousness of the County's situation.

County Water Systems One Year Look-Ahead

The Department of Public Works prepared a summary memorandum (Attachment 4) to provide an outline of the department's approach to managing, over the next 12 months, County operated water systems and related issues. As the National Weather Service's twelve month temperature and precipitation forecasts show an "Equal Change" of above or below normal temperatures, and an "Equal Chace" of above or below normal rainfall for the central coast, a one year look-ahead is necessary for planning efforts. The memorandum describes the status, issues, plans, and concerns for each of the major sub regions of the County, where the Department of Public Works provides either retail or wholesale water supply services, followed by a preliminary State Water delivery discussion, the status of efforts in the Chorro Valley, and recent relevant legislative proposals and water regulations.

Recommendation

Staff recommends that the Board review and receive the attached update. The report highlights the existence of continuing drought conditions in San Luis Obispo County. Review of this update by the Board fulfills the Board's duty to review the need to continue the proclamation of a local emergency due to the existence of drought conditions pursuant to Government Code section 8630. No other Board action is necessary. (Note: Any regulations issued because of the local drought emergency would be subject to Board approval. The local emergency proclamation adopted by the Board on March 11, 2014, will remain in effect until terminated by your Board.)

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT/IMPACT

At the onset of the Governor's declaration and under the direction of the County Administrative Officer, a County Drought Task Force was formed. The Drought Task Force is comprised of multiple County departments, including: Administrative Office, County Office of Emergency Services, Public Works Department, General Services Agency, County Fire, County Agricultural Commissioner, County Planning and Building, Farm Advisor, County Health Agency, and County Counsel. All member departments provided input for this report.

County OES continues to be in in regular contact with Cal OES to receive and provide situation status information.

The Public Works Department continues to coordinate with local water purveyors and cities.

Public Health is coordinating with relevant State agencies, including the State California Department of Public Health and Emergency Medical Services Authority Health Coordination Center.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

The long-term financial impact on the local economy, including the demand on County and other legal agency services, cannot be forecast at this time. The County continues to track drought-related costs. As of July 30, 2014, tracked labor costs associated with the drought total \$170,625.

RESULTS

Accepting the update prepared by the Drought Task Force, which establishes the existence of conditions of drought, confirms the need to continue the proclamation of a local emergency. Maintaining the proclamation of local emergency will continue to allow for the Public Works Department and other agencies to take immediate actions needed by allowing temporary reduction of certain regulatory and purchasing requirements. This will also permit County staff to assist in drought-related work and tasks outside their normal scope of duties in the capacity of Disaster Service Workers under Government Code section 3100. In addition, acceptance of the update from the Task Force, confirms the continuing existence of severe drought conditions and will also serve as notice to the State of our dire conditions and a reminder to all of the serious drought conditions facing the County and State.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1: Monthly Drought Update 7-15-2014

Attachment 2: U.S Drought Monitor Map

Attachment 3: SLO Reservoir Conditions

Attachment 4: Memorandum One-Year Outlook